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LETTER DATED 30 JUNE 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 29 June 1992 from Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir K. K. AL-NIMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 29 June 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to acquaint you with the practices adopted in the name of the Committee established by Security Council resolution 661 (1990), known as "the Sanctions Committee" and represented in the decisions imposed on the Committee by the representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France, for the purpose of persisting in harming and injuring Iraq and the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi people is suffering daily as a result of those decisions, which contain biased and unlawful interpretations of Security Council resolutions concerning economic sanctions against Iraq, the only objective of which, in our opinion, is to put a stranglehold on the Iraqi people, in the service of hostile political aims that govern the method of operation of the representatives of the three States on the Committee, particularly when we bear in mind that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations under the Security Council resolutions.

The continuation of these policies and use of the pretext of international legitimacy to support them constitutes a threat to the future of the whole Iraqi people.

The excesses and arrogance of the United States of America and the United Kingdom reached the point where they burned the food of the people in more than 22 villages in Dohuk and Ninawa governorates, during the period from 27 May 1992 to 13 June 1992, and destroyed the wheat and barley crops of farmers in those areas. To this were added the decisions adopted by the Committee on Sanctions at its 72nd meeting on 19 June 1992, through the opposition of the representatives of those same States - decisions that constitute blatant crimes to be added to their earlier crimes aimed at putting a stranglehold on the Iraqi people and depriving it of its most elementary fundamental humanitarian and civil rights.

A careful look at items 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 13 and 15 of those decisions indicates the extent of the arbitrariness and unfairness that have beset the Iraqi people as a result of the Committee's interpretation and implementation of Security Council resolutions concerning the economic sanctions. In addition, there is the Committee's treatment of Iraqi applications relating to the basic civilian needs of the Iraqi people and affecting its daily life. These examples are but a trifling portion of the obvious arbitrariness of the Committee's decisions. Below we give the negative decisions adopted by the Committee at its latest meeting, on 19 June 1992, referred to above.

Objection to the removal of two Iraqi Boeing 727s from Tunis and Amman to Baghdad for operation on the Baghdad-Basra-Baghdad domestic line. The objection was raised by the United Kingdom representative, as usual. (The

United Kingdom representative has made 38 objections out of a total of 60 cases of refusal and objection.) The objector's argument was that such removal was in breach of resolution 661 (1990). He commented that this resolution does not deal with the question of aviation for, otherwise, the Security Council would not have adopted resolution 670 (1990) concerning the question of aviation. Our proof of this is that Iraqi aviation continued until 15 January 1991, and no one objected on the basis of resolution 661 (1990). The United Kingdom representative also pointed out that domestic flights were not a humanitarian issue and did not form part of the basic needs of the Iraqi people.

How does the United Kingdom representative understand basic needs as we approach the twenty-first century? How does the United Kingdom representative understand the necessity of rapid transport for civilian travel in order to meet the needs of citizens for settling urgent affairs over a distance of more than 550 kilometres?

The representatives of the United States, France and Japan supported the arguments of the United Kingdom representative, and the application was therefore rejected.

The Committee rejected the supply of raw materials for the leather industry to the State Establishment for the Leather Industry as proposed by the Moroccan delegation, with delivery by the Moroccan Bata company. The representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom rejected this application on the basis that it would help to rebuild the Iraqi economic infrastructure, and the request was therefore refused. What logic governs the decisions of the Committee and rejects such a request, which meets the most elementary human needs, not only in Iraq but anywhere in the world? Is not the wearing of shoes one of the most elementary human rights?

Do the Western information media not shed crocodile tears for the world's poor, showing them naked and barefoot? Do they want Iraqis to have such a fate after making great headway in development by their unadulterated effort? Today, the Americans and the British want to rob them of their gains and return them to centuries past. Is anything that helps the Iraqi economic infrastructure something banned and unlawful? This position that indicts the Commission and causes the adoption of ignoble attitudes in its name indicates what they have in mind for the world with their new international order.

On the other hand, the Committee approved the application for the supply of ready-made shoes to Iraq. Then why should the Committee oppose the supply to Iraq of the prerequisites for manufacturing shoes, when it approved the import of ready-made shoes? Does that not mean the killing of Iraqi industry on which dozens of Iraqi workers and technicians depend, exposing them to unemployment, displacement and starvation, together with the related sales personnel and intermediaries. The anticipated damage will not be limited to that, inasmuch as depriving the leather and shoe industry of certain production requirements means that a considerable portion of the raw materials produced locally will be left unused, since they cannot be exported (under the same sanctions!).

The United States and French representatives blocked an application from the Jordanian Mission whereby a number of Jordanian companies offered to supply Iraq with the following materials: 85 tons of water pumps, including pumps for agricultural purposes; 200 tons of steel piping for water; and 150 tons of plastic piping for water. On the grounds of seeking additional information on the substance of the application and the end-user of the materials. Once again, how does the Committee interpret this illegal and immoral conduct in its name? What other uses are there for water pipes except that for which they are designed? Are not these pipes a basic civilian commodity? Who would use them other than the Iraqi population. What is this but the heresy espoused by those who harbour ill intentions vis-à-vis Iraqis?

In the case of another application from Jordanian Mission regarding permission for the Shahin National Trading Corporation to supply Iraq with electric pumps to be imported from Italy and electric pumps and spare parts for them to be imported from India, a procedural problem was raised: since the materials requested would be imported from Italy and India, India and Italy would have to be consulted in the matter. Thus, this application was suspended. Tomorrow, when India and Italy agree to supply the goods, the constant objectors will perhaps adduce fresh arguments, for example, that the requested materials constitute a large quantity, or that they do not know who is the end-user, or that they will help the Iraqi economic infrastructure - those arguments that have been repeated so often and rejected by all who have regard for the principles of justice, fairness and humanity.

Great Britain blocked an application from Turkey to supply the private sector in the town of Dohuk with 70,000 square metres of glass plates on the grounds that consultation with Turkey was necessary.

The United Kingdom representative also objected to Turkey's supplying the private sector with 80,000 plywood veneer units on the grounds that that would help the Iraqi infrastructure. The United Kingdom and France also objected to the Italian company Texim supplying the General Establishment for Cereals with the following equipment: 20 fixed bakeries; 5 kneading machines; 10 steam generators; 20 mobile bakeries; 10 ovens, on the same untenable pretext, namely, that they would strengthen the Iraqi economic infrastructure. How would this simple equipment for making bread for the people affect the Iraqi economic infrastructure, on which some 20 million depend? Is the Iraqi people now forbidden to manufacture its daily bread itself and therefore prohibited from importing that equipment? Will the objectors one day put it to the Sanctions Committee that we should import ready-made loaves from them?

The game that is being played in the name of the Sanctions Committee has been revealed. It is an endeavour to reduce the Iraqi people to poverty and to harm it. Otherwise, what relation is there between the logic of rejection employed by the United States, the United Kingdom and France and the Security Council resolutions under which Iraq has fulfilled its obligation.

Silence regarding these disgraceful actions for which the Sanctions Committee is being used as a cover is silence regarding a crime committed

against a people in the name of international legitimacy as understood and applied by the three permanent members of the Security Council and their representative on the Sanctions Committee.

I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the United Nations.

(Signed) Ahmad HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq